

REMARKS

A grammatical error has been corrected in the specification.

Claim 2 has been canceled and substantively incorporated into claim 1. Claims 3-6 have been amended to correct for proper dependency based on the revision to claim 1. The application now includes claims 1 and 3-7

Claim 3 was amended to eliminate the word “the”, thereby overcoming the rejection lodged under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-7 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,789,252 to Burke. This rejection is traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 7 specify the use of a Business Decision Markup Language (BDML). In the office action, the Examiner has erroneously concluded that the statement in Burke “the integration framework facilitates data transfer using XML gateways” (col. 34, lines 20-67 (see lines 37-38)) means that Burke includes a BDML. This is not correct.

As explained on page 12 of the application, a BDML document is created by a human based on the understanding of the business process and/or application software. A BDML document includes a file for the business decision (BD) itself, a file for the model specification, and a file for the implementation of the BD. BDML is based on XML and its tags are defined following the XML tag definition standards (see page 12, line 12 of the application. Pages 13-24 provide a detailed description of the tags and the key specifications of BDML. By comparison, it is noted that Burke does not include a BDML, and a statement that transfer can occur through XML gateways does not mean that there is a BDML.

In short, Burke describes a different type of product used to address different problems to those addressed by the present invention. Specific differences are as follows.

1. Burke et al. specifies a method to create a software application through the use of business objects. In contrast, the application and claims specify a method to create and process a set of human and machine readable documents which describe a software application in a certain way.

2. Burke et al. specifies a method to create and apply business objects to develop a software application (such as the Product Composition System and other examples given in col. 37 and onwards). In contrast, the claimed invention does not create nor apply any business objects. That is, the claimed invention is independent of and does not rely on whether a software application is developed using objects or using legacy, procedural logic or code. For this reason, the application does not mention any “objects” or any other form of computing artifacts used in a software application.

3. The claimed invention specifies a method to create and process a set of documents containing the specification of the business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying model used in an application software system (claim 1). In contrast, Burke et al. specifies a method to create an application software system itself (through the use of business objects).

4. The claimed invention specifies a method to create and process a set of documents containing the specification of the business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying model used in a business decision (claim 1). The business decision can be a set of manual procedures carried out by a human being. There may not be any form of computing device, specifically may not be any business object nor any business application. Burke et al. has no application to these features.

5. The claimed invention specifies a method to create and process a set of documents containing the specification of the business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying model used in a technical research paper in the area of business decisions (such as those in management science, operations research, operations management) and its findings (claim 4). A technical research paper is not a computing device, specifically not a business object nor a business application. Thus, the method of Burke et al. does not apply.

6. The claimed invention deals with the correctness and consistency of human and machine readable documents created in BDML (claims 7 & 8). Burke

et al., by contrast, deals with the correctness of a software application, specifically that of the business objects created to build the software application (such as content validation).

7. The XML documents in the integration framework created by Burke et al. are used for data transfers between the business objects and some other systems outside of the software application composed of the business objects (col. 34: 37-38). The BDML documents in the claimed invention specify the business objectives, constraints, assumptions, and underlying model used in a software application, in addition to the data used in the software application.

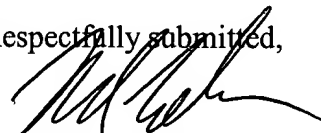
8. The term “model” used in Burke et al. and in the present specification has different meanings. The “models” referred to in Burke et al. (col. 16:46-52) are representations of business objects which in turn are representations of physical entities such as locations, events, processes, products, records (col. 15: 38-46). The “model” referred to in the present specification is a mathematical model used to represent a business decision. A typical mathematical model of such kind is an optimization model in the operations research or management science trade, representing, for example, a decision to use what resources at what time to manufacture the selected products at minimum cost.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 and 3-7 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to IBM's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,



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